

RECOVERY FUNDS AT WORK IN OHIO'S SIXTH DISTRICT

Wilson Announces Ohio to Receive Housing and Education Funds from Recovery Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Education have posted that they are releasing funding to Ohio as specified by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

HOUSING

Ohio will receive \$211,138,680 in guaranteed housing loans as part of the Recovery Act.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these funds will assist very low- to moderate-income families in rural communities finance new or improved housing. The funds will help spur economic growth and home ownership opportunities in rural America.

"This part of the Recovery Act is targeted to rural Ohio, and that's a good thing," Wilson said. "Rural families are just as hurt by this extended recession and I'm pleased our plan is helping families in communities like ours take part in and benefit from the recovery process. This will provide families the opportunity to live in a safe, well-built, affordable home."

How to apply:

This funding covers two federal loans programs. Each program has separate eligibility requirements and loan terms. For more information about how to apply, contact the USDA Rural Development Field offices in Marietta at 740-373-7113 or in Massillon at 330-830-7700.

EDUCATION

As previously announced, Ohio will also receive \$2,682,627,865 in emergency education funding through Title 1 and IDEA as part of the Recovery Act. Approximately half of these funds will be distributed by the U.S. Department of Education today, and the remaining installment is expected to be released in the fall.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, these funds will help save education-related jobs and maintain programs for low-income students and students with disabilities.

Nationwide, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$13.5 billion in IDEA funds and \$13 billion in Title I funds. IDEA is the major federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn. The funds appropriated through the Recovery Plan are distributed through the previously defined IDEA and Title I formulas.

"There's been some concern that Ohio's new school funding formula, which is still being worked out by the governor and the state legislature, will mean that this federal recovery funding won't reach our schools," Wilson said. "I'm confident that every dollar in

Title I funds and IDEA funds that was secured for our schools through the Recovery Act will go to our schools. This funding was designed to invest in education at a time when most schools are facing severe cutbacks. Investing in education is the right thing to do as it promotes our long term economic recovery by making sure our country's future workforce is competitive."

In addition to the Title I and IDEA investments, the economic recovery plan also created a state stabilization fund to help stabilize state and local budgets and restore harmful cuts to education. Along with announcing the release of funding for local districts, the Obama administration also issued guidelines today to clarify how these funds must be used to help clear up recent confusion over whether the state can decide how local districts and colleges use those funds. States can also now apply for this funding.

The guidelines confirm that while states allocate the funds, it should be up to local school districts and colleges and universities to decide how to use this emergency aid, not up to states. The guidelines also reaffirmed that state stabilization funds should be used for three purposes: to backfill harmful cuts to k12 and higher education, to stave off teacher layoffs, and to modernize school facilities – which could create new jobs.

[Click here](#) to download the Department of Education's state-level data, including the State Stabilization Fund, Title I and IDEA.

[Click here](#) to download the Department of Education's estimates of school district level allocations for Title I. (Approximately half of these funds will be distributed TODAY; the second installment is expected later this fall.)

[Click here](#) to download school district level allocations for IDEA, as calculated by CRS on February 13, 2009. (Approximately half of these funds will be distributed TODAY; the second installment is expected later this fall.)

[Click here](#) to view the guidance issued by the Department of Education.